

# The Colored American

A NATIONAL NEGRO NEWSPAPER

Library of Congress

Vol. 7, No. 38

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1899.

Price Five Cents.

## NEGRO EXHIBIT AT PARIS

Three Convincing Reasons why we Should Make a Distinctive Showing at the world's Greatest Fair.

Indication for a Much-Abused People

There are three strong reasons for a Negro exhibit at the Paris Exposition next year. The first reason is a general one and is found in the peculiar attitude in which Europe is now situated. The "Fashoda Incident," and the present Boer war are only the outcroppings of a tremendous European invasion in Africa. This "Dark Continent" is no longer dark, as the most gigantic efforts of capital are being directed toward opening up the continent for the overplus population of Europe. The millions of native Africans in the continent, who must in some way be assimilated into the body politic, will more and more force upon the statesmen of Europe and Africa, the same Negro problem which this country has struggled with for three centuries. Whatever faults may be charged to the people of the United States, the people of African descent in this country are civilized, Christianized, possessors of vast educational privileges and owners of, perhaps, a half billion of dollars worth of property. They are engaged in every industry and pursuit common to white Americans, and universally accredited with rapid progress. America can therefore furnish Europe with such evidences of the Negro's value as a laborer, a producer, and a citizen, that the statescraft of the Old World will be wiser in the shaping of its African policies.

A second reason for the exhibit lies in the fact that much criticism of the United States is indulged in abroad on the ground that this country has assumed to annex new territory largely populated with dark races when, it is charged, this nation proscribes in every possible way the ten millions of such people in its own borders. This exhibit can show other nations the other side to the story, and can furnish evidences of marvellous progress of the colored people, as an offset to the charges of proscription. While the United States must plead guilty to horrible lynchings occasionally, and many forms of prejudice, we can more than balance these faults with the rapid development in education and industry of ten millions of ex-slaves, who, in the space of 35 years have produced an item of thirty thousand teachers, to say nothing of a hundred other occupations requiring training.

The right of the colored people to have occasional opportunities to show in a distinctive way the evidences of their progress furnishes the third reason for such an exhibit. The average American citizen never stops to consider that practically every cotton fabric he wears is a product of Negro labor so far as the raw material is concerned. So scattered is the Negro and so varied his industry that it is only by such exhibits that the Negro can prove his value to the body politic. Many southern white people who have lived all their lives in regions thickly populated with Negroes, were amazed at the Negro exhibits at Atlanta and Nashville. These expositions have opened up several factories for Negro labor, and have crystallized a strong sentiment in many parts favoring him as an operative.

Less than 30 days ago I was appointed by Commissioner General Peck to prepare a Negro Exhibit. An exceedingly limited space was set aside in the government exhibit in sociology for this feature. The space seems ridicu-

lously small, and yet in view of the fact that the government has less than a thousand square feet in this building, it was a liberal provision for which Director Rogers sacrificed other features. The building in which this exhibit is to be held will be used for Congresses, and hence is the most favorable spot in the exposition group.

Since I have been appointed, I have travelled about twenty-five hundred miles and have definitely arranged for very creditable exhibits from several educational institutions, such as, Howard University, in this city, Hampton Institute in Virginia, Atlanta University in Georgia, Mr. Booker Washington's Industrial Institute in Alabama, and Fisk University in Tennessee. Each of these institutions will take up a special phase of the educational work being done among the colored people. Howard University with eight professional departments, will furnish a striking exhibit showing the professional training being done; Hampton Institute will exhibit a system of manual training which has been developed there to such an extent as to attract wide attention. This institution will also furnish a most interesting photographic display. Miss F. B. Johnston of this city is now engaged in preparing this pictorial feature.

From Atlanta University in Georgia I arranged for an exhibit in sociology to cover thirty-one display cards, 22 by 28 inches, or a total display area of 132.6 square feet. A class of colored students under Professor Du Bois, a colored graduate of Harvard College, will display in artistic coloring, such sociological statistics as Negro population at various periods, relative increase of the two races, distribution of Negroes, education and illiteracy, pauperism, crime, ownership of homes, factory employment, etc. This exhibit will certainly receive wide attention. The Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, being the best known industrial institution, is now preparing a series of uniform sized display boards to the surfaces of which small articles are attached which represent the twenty-eight shops and other industries of that institution. By an ingenious device in the use of space, a display surface of 288 square feet will be used. I have already predicted a French prize for the agricultural exhibit which that institution is preparing.

Fisk University, made famous all over the world as the origin of the Jubilee Singers, will furnish a complete set of bound volumes of written work of the entire institution, through which will be scattered large numbers of photographs, making each volume an illustrated book.

The Washington colored public schools are preparing, however, what will be the most attractive feature of all. It is to be a series of modelled groups, with miniature figures of persons, school houses and surroundings, showing by three or four groups, the evolution of the Negro school house from the most primitive backwoods hut to the finely appointed and commodious Colored High School building in Washington. As a dramatic tableau representation in school equipment, I predict for it great attention.

There are more than a dozen other phases of this exhibit already under way, but one other in conclusion. Nearly fifty colored men have received medals of honor in the United States Army and Navy. Photographs of these men, with the official record of the valorous deed for which the medal was granted will be displayed.

The success of the exhibit thus far is due to the warm encouragement of President McKinley and Commissioner General Peck. Although Mr. Peck received from Congress nearly two hundred thousand dollars less than his schedule called for, and while there was no provision in this scheduled for this Negro exhibit, he has undertaken to provide from a small contingent fund for this new feature. The col-

(Continued on Fifth page.)

## HON. WILLIAM F. ALDRICH

Some Interesting Facts About Alabama's Favorite Son and Why He Should Wear The Mantle of Leadership.

How Mr. Aldrich Has Assisted The Republican Organization in the South—Contents for Usual Representation in Convention—His Services to His State and the Negro in the Black Belt—Judges Men by Merit, Not Color.

Whenever Alabama republicans become the topic of conversation, here or within the shadow of the capitol dome at Montgomery, the mind instinctively turns to the Hon. William F. Aldrich, for everybody will agree that his name, like that of Abou Ben Adhem, "leads all the rest."

The position of the Southern republican is often one of embarrassment by reason of the peculiar conditions prevailing as to the suffrage rights of a large percent of his constituents, strong prejudices as to the participation of this element in state and national politics, and a half expressed feeling on the part of his northern contemporaries, that when patronage is to be distributed, little favor should be shown the representative of a section which can give but few members of Congress and no electoral votes for a president. There is no substantial reason why any of these conditions should exist to an offensive degree, but since they do exist, the nation is fortunate in having at its command and in its service that class of men whose highbred qualities of head and heart, and whose training in diplomacy and statescraft are of a character that tend to reduce the baleful effects of untoward circumstances to a minimum. Such a man is William F. Aldrich, the leader of modern republicanism in the state of Alabama. He espoused the principles of the party of freedom, humanity and moral ideas, when it required courage of the sternest kind to do battle with the forces of opposition which seemed invincible; but he faced the situation, and through the methods of an honest, but determined field marshal, he has made republicanism respected in the farthestmost nook in the state, and his magnanimous nature and generous dealings have made him loved and venerated in his home community. His rise to prominence, in spite of the early counter-spirit which threatened to defeat his aspirations, has encouraged others to go forward, until the year of grace 1900 finds him surrounded by as strong, loyal and aggressive a party as can be mustered in many commonwealths where opportunities have been of the best.

So well has Mr. Aldrich impressed his character, worth and ability as a leader and organizer, upon the rank and file of the republicans of Alabama, that a vigorous boom has been started, which if it reaches the momentum commensurate with its merits, will land him in the chair for national committeeman for his state, and place him in charge of the massive machinery which his brains and energy have done so much to construct and give motive power. We understand that Mr. Aldrich is not a candidate for this distinction, but, knowing his disinclination to shirk any responsibility which his followers may throw about him, we cannot imagine that he would refuse to serve cheerfully and effectively should he be chosen. His broad experience and natural gifts would be of immense advantage to the national committee, and the South would be wise to select as her representatives thereon, a class of men of which Mr. Aldrich is a splendid example, who will be influential in staying the proposed movement to reduce the strength of that great section in the national convention of the republican party. He will justly contend that the able knights who are so gallantly holding the party intact against a most perili-

ous and virulent foe, should not now be stripped of power so richly earned, nor denied privileges enjoyed from time immemorial, because of restrictions with which they have no patience and are without means to control. Mr. Aldrich is a business man, accustomed to the management of large interests in manufacturing and agriculture, and he is pre-eminently the man to trust with the largest interests of the people.

No better proof of his popularity can be brought to bear than the signal victories he has achieved in his races for the Congress of the United States. In his canvass for the 54th and 55th Congresses, so universal was the support given him by the voters of his district, both white and colored, that, although a partisan governor gave his opponent the certificate, honest investigation showed that he possessed a clear title to the seat, and it was given him without serious quibble. He is again a contestant for his seat in the House, 56th Congress, and when the issue is favorably decided, as it will undoubtedly be, Mr. Aldrich will have made three successive successful contests, which up to date, breaks all records.

The secret of his strength with the masses is his old fashioned practice of sticking to his friends "through thick and thin," and adhering to the narrow path of truth and honor in all transactions, business, social or political. He is a heavy employer of colored labor at Aldrich, and by paying liberal wages and treating his subordinates as men, estimating them solely by their worth, he has won their lasting affection and confidence. He has been instrumental in securing for many of our race, honorable political recognition. He has no color prejudice whatever. His thoroughgoing business policies have made him no less strong with his Caucasian contemporaries, and with the "plain people."

He never sits down and waits for "something to turn up." He hustles for his constituents by night and by day. Being heartily in sympathy with the educational system which Booker T. Washington is so successfully conducting at Tuskegee, Mr. Aldrich pushed through Congress a bill granting to the school 25,000 acres of land, valued at \$125,000 or more, which now yields a handsome endowment fund for industrial education for colored youth. This was a magnificent achievement, and shortly after he duplicated it, securing alike amount for the Girls' Industrial School at Montevallo. He succeeded in getting a public building at Anniston to the value of \$50,000, thus benefitting the state to the amount of these appropriations—\$300,000.

This is the work that will not be forgotten by an appreciative constituency. Mr. Aldrich has proven himself a most active and useful agent of prosperity and progress, just alike to all classes, black and white and the future holds for him honors and emoluments that fidelity to duty and tireless energy never fail to bestow.

## VALUE OF RACE JOURNALS

The Only Channel Through Which Negro Progress Can be Shown—Relief for Baker Family—Church and Society News in New Haven

New Haven, Conn., Special.—The Colored American seems to be what the New Haven people want; but yet there are some people, especially most of our young people, who do not read any of our colored newspapers. Many of them say that they can get all they want to know by reading the white papers. But never was the Negro journal needed so much as it is today. The masses of Negroes need facts concerning the prosperity of the race, and the only channel through which they can be obtained is the Negro press. It will take centuries of liberal education for the white papers to rise to the point of speaking in the Negro's behalf as the Afro-American journals do today. Though they are not as plentiful as the

## MEN OF THE HOUR



HON. WILLIAM F. ALDRICH, Alabama's Favorite Son, and "Three-Time Winner" for a Seat in Congress.

sand on the seashore, our people should remember that, "Little drops of water, little grains of sand, Make the mighty ocean and the beautiful land."

There is nothing concerning the rapid progress of our race published in the white papers of Connecticut, and so few of our colored papers are read by the Negroes of Connecticut that they know very little of the wholesome prosperity of the race throughout the country, and when told about it they do not believe it. Now if the Negro wants facts concerning the race, he should read each week at least one race paper, The Colored American preferred, as it is the best—a masterpiece of current literature.

There are colored men and women in this state who cannot believe that there is a Bank owned and controlled by colored men. The boys and girls of today should be taught through The Colored American what the race needs and must achieve to command their legal rights.

Numbers of distinguished citizens have organized themselves and are known as the Citizens' Baker Relief Committee, of New Haven Connecticut, and are assisted by an auxiliary of ladies, representing the different churches of the city. They will give a grand entertainment at the Foot Street A. M. E. Zion church, Thursday evening, December 21, at 8 o'clock. An excellent program has been arranged for the evening. Choice refreshments will be on sale in the vestry of the church. Admission 15 cents. Officers of the committee are as follows: J. H. Griffin, chairman; E. B. Price, secretary; J. W. Stewart, treasurer.

This entertainment being for a worthy and charitable cause, the committee are endeavoring to make it worthy of the patronage of the public. We hope that all will join in the movement and assist to the extent of their ability, those who are unable to help themselves. The public will remember the sad and horrible death of Frazier P. Baker, Postmaster at Lake City, S. C., who was murdered a few months ago by a mob of white men while at his post of duty. The full story of the horrible tragedy will be explained on the evening of the entertainment. A full house is expected.

The marriage of Miss Josephine Louisa Harris to Mr. Thomas M. Jennings, both of this city, has been an-

nounced to take place at the Immanuel Baptist church on Wednesday evening, the 27th inst., at 8:30 o'clock. Rev. A. Clayton Powell, the pastor, will officiate. A reception will be held in the church chapel. The little folks will be entertained at the Immanuel Baptist church all day next Sunday, at 11 a.m. Sermon by the pastor, Rev. A. C. Powell, subject, "A Child in the Midst." Sunday-school at 12:15 p.m. At 7:30 p.m., the following program will be rendered: Paper—"Best Method of Punishing Disobedience in the Home," by Mrs. Anna Martin; solo by Mr. S. E. Lee; reading by Mrs. Frank K. Swan; paper, "One Way of Managing an Unruly Class," by Mrs. S. E. Booker; recitation by Miss Mamie Morgan; paper, "The Influence of Children in the Home," by Mr. G. H. Johnson. The First Baptist church, of Milford, will hold a grand rally on Sunday, the 17th inst, in their own place of worship. Good sermons will be delivered, and all are invited to attend and help the cause. Rev. Fernandez, pastor of the Union A. M. E. Church, preached a fine sermon at Immanuel Baptist church last Sunday morning. A large audience listened to a most eloquent sermon in the evening by Rev. Baker, of Hartford. Rev. A. C. Powell will preach at the Union A. M. E. church next Sunday at 8 o'clock p.m. A. LEE EPPS.

Edward Everett Brown. Mr. Edward Everett Brown, one of the most active and strongly-equipped members of the Boston bar, will arrive here today. He is no stranger here, for his long and aggressive campaign against the lynching evil, and his extensive correspondence relative to his gigantic petition in favor of a bill he has in preparation to denounce lynching a national crime, has made his name a household word wherever newspapers are read. Washington will have an opportunity to know him better, for he will remain with us until after the holiday season. He will be the guest of Congressman White for the present. Tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 o'clock, Attorney Brown will address the Lyceum of the Second Baptist church; subject: "The Nation Responsible for Lynching." Time will be allowed for discussion, and eminent speakers are expected to be present.